

**REMARKS**

In view of the examiner's comments with respect to possible rejoinder (of Groups I, III, and IV), the applicants hereby elect, without traverse, for further prosecution on the merits the claims of Group I (claims 1-5, and 7-9).

As this response is timely filed, the applicants do not believe that any fee is required for consideration of the present document. Nevertheless, should the Patent Office determine that a fee is due for consideration of the present document, then said fee may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, under Order No. 21123/277076.

Respectfully submitted,

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